

Application number 10/786,370
Amendment dated June 22, 2005
Reply to office action mailed March 15, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 7-12, and 15-24 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 15 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form, the scope of claims 15 and 19 have not changed. The dependencies of claims 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 6, 13, and 14 have been cancelled. New claims 21-24 have been added. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Voldman, United States patent number 6,404,269. Claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chan et al., United States patent number 6,140,846. Reconsideration of these rejections and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Claims 9-12 have been allowed.

Claim 1

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Voldman. But Voldman does not teach each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 1, as amended, recites "when a difference between the first supply voltage and the second supply voltage exceeds a voltage threshold, the first bias voltage is greater than the second supply voltage and the second bias voltage is less than the first supply voltage." Voldman does not provide this feature.

The pending office action cites Voldman, Figure 6, as teaching each and every element of this claim. (See pending office action, page 2, paragraph 2.) But this figure shows the first bias voltage at the gate of the p-channel device (unlabeled) as being connected to Vss (the second supply voltage) and the second bias voltage at the gate of the n-channel device (also unlabeled) as being connected to Vdd (the first supply voltage).

In this configuration, the first bias voltage is always equal to the second supply voltage and the second bias voltage is always equal to the first supply voltage. Accordingly,

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Voldman does not provide a first bias voltage that is greater than the second supply voltage and a second bias voltage that is less than the first supply voltage as required by the claim.

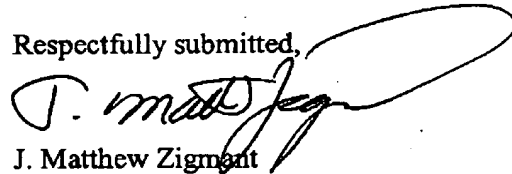
For at least this reason, claim 1 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-4782.

Respectfully submitted,



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